REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

In the office action of November 21, 2008, the Examiner has made final the restriction requirement issued previously and has set forth new grounds of rejection of Claims 1-3 based on 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Claims 4-24 are withdrawn.

Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Ma et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,786,221.

The Examiner alleges that Ma et al. disclose a pancreatic antigen which is 34 KD according to SDS-PAGE (See column 6, lines 32-44).

In response to the rejection, Applicants respectfully submit that Ma et al. show pancreatic antigens having at least 59 KD and 67 KD bands and a pancreatic extract that includes 90 KD, 59 KD, 67 KD and 34 KD proteins. See column 6, lines 32-44. The present invention teaches a pancreatic carcinoma-specific antigen 3C4-Ag having a specific molecular weight of about 43.5 kDa as in present Claim 1, from which Claim 3 depends upon, and range of a molecular weight of about 36 to about 38 kD as in present Claim 2. Since Ma et al. teach pancreatic antigens having at least 59 KD and 67 KD bands and a pancreatic extract that includes 90 KD, 59 KD, 67 KD and 34 KD proteins, Ma et al. do not anywhere teach the specific molecular weight of about 43.5 kDA or the molecular weight range of about 36 to about 38 kD as in present Claims 1-3. Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-3 under 35 USC § 102(b).

Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Hobbs et al. (Oncodevelopmental Biology and Medicine 1: 37-48, 1980), as evidenced by U.S. Patent No. 4,843,019.

The Examiner alleges that Hobbs et al. disclose a pancreatic antigen which is 40 KD (See Column 1, lines 16-33) and that the antigen is found in foetal pancreas and carcinoma of the pacreas and not in normal pancreas (See Figure 2 caption on page 39).

In response to the rejection, Applicants respectfully submit that Hobbs et al. disclose a pancreatic antigen which is 40 KD (See Column 1, lines 16-33) while the present invention teaches a pancreatic carcinoma-specific antigen 3C4-Ag having a specific molecular weight of about 43.5 kDa as in present Claim 1, from which Claim 3 depends upon, and range of a molecular weight of about 36 to about 38 kD as in present Claim 2. Since Hobbs et al. teach a pancreatic antigen having a 40 KD molecular weight, Hobbs et al. do not anywhere teach the specific molecular weight of about 43.5 kDA or the molecular weight range of about 36 to about 38 kD as in present Claims 1-3. Further, Hobbs et al. do not teach an immunologically active fragment of 3C4-Ag as in Claim 3. Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-3 under 35 USC § 102(b).

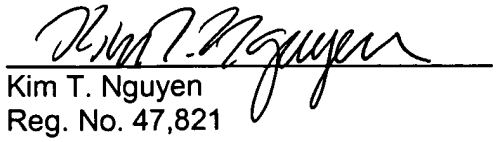
Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Glassy et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0098581.

The Examiner alleges that Glassy et al. disclose a SK1 antigen, a pancreatic antigen (See page 10, Table 2) and that the antigen is 42-62 kD according to a SDS-PAGE gel (See page 2, section 0018).

In response to the rejection, Applicants respectfully submit that Glassy et al. disclose a SK1 antigen having 42-62 kD, and not a 3C4-Ag antigen or an immunologically active fragment of 3C4-Ag as presently claimed in Claims 1 and 3. Further, since Glass et al. disclose a SK1 antigen having 42-62 kD, Glassy et al. does not teach the limitation of present Claim 2 wherein the molecular weight of the 3C4-Ag antigen is about 36 to about 38 kD. The present invention teaches a pancreatic carcinoma-specific antigen 3C4-Ag having a specific molecular weight of about 43.5 kDa as in present Claim 1, from which Claim 3 depends upon, and range of a molecular weight of about 36 to about 38 kD as in present Claim 2. Since Glassy et al. do not teach a 3C4-Ag antigen or an immunologically active fragment of 3C4-Ag as in Claims 1 and 3 or a 3C4-Ag antigen with the specifically claimed molecular weights as in Claim 2, Glassy et al. do not anywhere teach the present invention. Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-3 under 35 USC § 102(b).

Accordingly, it is firmly believed that the present application is in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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